



Merry Christmas The Guardian

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December 2006

2006 Ronald McDonald House Holiday Cruise

By Detective Monty Moss, Criminal Intelligence Division
President, RMH Holiday Cruise Committee
and Alicia Schroder, Administrative Specialist II, Criminal Intelligence Division

The Ronald McDonald House is a place for families to stay when their children are battling cancer or leukemia. The service is expended to families who live over 50 miles away from Children's Hospital and do not have the means to completely support themselves while they are in Seattle fighting for their child's life. The Ronald McDonald House serves more than 80 families between their three houses near Children's Hospital. These families have uprooted their lives to get the best treatment for their child leaving behind jobs, friends and family. As the Holiday season approaches we hope to bring an extra bit of cheer to the families staying at the Ronald McDonald House through our annual Ronald McDonald House Holiday Cruise.

The tradition began in 1982 when Stephen Lamson organized a small group of boats and launched the first Ronald McDonald House Holiday Cruise on Lake Washington. The group hosted several families staying at the Ronald McDonald House and served a barbeque dinner. In 1996, Mr. Lamson asked the Kirkland Police Department to help because of the growing number of families staying at the Ronald McDonald House. Medina Police Department later joined in the event. In 2002, the RMH Holiday Cruise committee invited the Seattle Police Officers Guild to become involved. Since 2003, the RMH Holiday Cruise has departed from Pier 56 in Seattle and the men and women of the Seattle Police Department have since become a crucial part of the Holiday Cruise success.

We know that we cannot cure these children and there is no way to give back the countless hours spent dealing with the circumstances at hand. However, for one night, we are able to help the families put their cares aside and enjoy an evening that is sure to create memories to years to come. For some families this will be their last holiday together and we want to make it a special one.

The cruise is funded by an annual auction held at the Overlake Golf and Country Club in Medina.



Photo by Officer Clay Stockwell, SWAT

This year the auction was held on October 28th and was a huge success. The proceeds from this auction exceeded the previous record by 50 percent and brought in \$140,000. Among the two hundred attendees were hydroplane-racing celebrities Chip Hanauer and Dave Vilwoc. The auction featured several items from Seattle Seahawks wide receiver Bobby Engram including donated tickets, autographed items and a dinner with him and his wife. Also up for bid were Seattle PD Harbor Patrol ride alongs which continued to be popular with the bidders. Several Seattle Police Explorers were on hand and worked hard to provide a professional presence and to make the event a success.

We are now preparing for this year's Holiday Cruise. The cruise will take place on Sunday, December 24th from 3:00-6:00pm. The afternoon begins with a Seattle Police Traffic escort from the Ronald McDonald House to Pier 56. Our Mounted Patrol will be on hand to greet the children and their families as they arrive at the pier. We will begin boarding *The Royal Argosy* at 3:00pm and the ship sails at 3:30pm. During the cruise, the families are treated to a fabulous buffet dinner, singing and dancing for the kids, a cookie making party, and a visit from the real Santa Claus. The guests will be treated to a water show during the cruise from our Harbor Patrol Unit. SWAT Officer Clay Stockwell will be onboard for the fourth year to photograph cruise activities. The ship will return to Pier 56 at 6:00pm where the guests will be welcomed with a light show provided by a number of on-duty patrol officers awaiting their arrival. The families will return to the Ronald McDonald House to find about \$150 worth of gifts waiting for each family member.

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In Loving Memory

Officer Elizabeth "Beth" Nowak #6960



End of Watch: 11-13-2006
Gone But Not Forgotten

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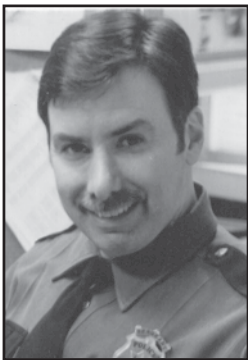
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President's Message

By Sergeant Rich O'Neill, SPOG President



The Seattle Police Family lost another member when Officer Elizabeth Nowak was taken from us on November 13. Although Officer Nowak had only been with our department a short six months, she already made lasting impressions. I received a call from one of her training officers who told me that she was a young officer who “got it.” With that comment, this veteran officer summed up all of her capabilities. Beth had the right attitude for this profession. We train new officers in all the technical aspects and test them on all the laws and procedures. There are some who excel in all those areas but fall short in the “attitude” category. Beth excelled in all areas and most importantly had the right approach. She was a private person but yet had a very funny sense of humor. She was very patriotic and loved this country. She was a U.S. Air Force veteran and had served honorably in Afghanistan. She often spoke about re-entering the reserves once she was more settled in Seattle. When our country is at war that is real bravery and patriotism! She was a person who was goal oriented and wanted to make a difference in this world. She was a spiritual person with a strong Catholic upbringing. She came to SPD after serving five years with the Racine, Wisconsin Police Department. I had an opportunity to speak with two Racine officers who were here for the memorial. They told some very inspiring “war stories” about Beth’s police work in Racine. She had truly distinguished herself as one of their best in her short career with them. Their department was saddened when she came to Seattle and today they truly share in our grief.

Officer Nowak’s death was truly a tragedy. A young aspiring person taken in the prime of her life. I hesitate calling it an auto accident because “accident” implies that it was a mistake. When a career criminal with an extensive felony record decides to steal a car and drives recklessly without lights through an intersection, I have trouble calling that “an accident.” The criminal justice system failed once again! This felon should have been behind bars. We hear some say that they need to weigh incarceration vs. rehabilitation. In some cases that is true, but after twenty felonies, are we are still trying to rehabilitate someone? There is a time when someone should run out of chances and just be required to serve the maximum sentence every time they are convicted. I spoke with Officer Nowak’s best friend, Lynnette Oelke, and she told me that she plans to work hard to see that “the system” is changed. We will stand with Lynnette and offer whatever support she needs to hold accountable those in the criminal justice system who continually release repeat offenders. When they release such individuals they need to understand their decisions can ruin the lives of so many people. In today’s society we have a tremendous amount of accountability and oversight of police officers. Why not the same level of oversight for judges, prosecutors and parole boards? It is long overdue for the focus to shift to these parts of the criminal justice system. It must be done to honor the memory of Officer Elizabeth Nowak.

It is difficult to compose a column at times like these, but I need to shift topics and alert all SPOG members of a very important campaign that will be coming in January. The SPOG Board of Directors unanimously voted to support the creation of a Political Action Campaign Fund. The PAC Fund will be established to support ballot initiatives and political campaigns that will promote and support Seattle Police Officers. The fund will consist of VOLUNTARY contributions from officers, concerned citizens, and retired officers. The Seattle Firefighters Union Local 27 established such a fund and now has over 60% participation from their members. With these funds they are able to support candidates who support them and it enables them to “bring some political heat” on those candidates who

do not support their positions. Politics is here to stay. We can either be a force in the political arena or we can be outsiders. This is a monumental step in the life of SPOG. If anyone needs an example, consider the much publicized recent police staffing discussion in the city budget process. The Mayor proposed adding only six officers. Councilmember Steinbrueck suggested 50 a year for 5 years. Some on the council weren’t even interested in adding ANY new officers. They settled on a whopping 10 this year and 20 next year. I’ve explained to those in the media how that computes to about 2 officers per watch per precinct. That is not the kind of hiring that is going to solve the staffing crisis. But for a moment let’s imagine that there were city council elections coming up. Let’s imagine that a group of fed-up citizens organized a citizen’s ballot initiative to dictate the hiring of 250 officers over 5 years. Let’s imagine that SPOG had a PAC Fund and we could use that fund to support those in office who support the initiative. SPOG could also pay for commercials to dramatize the need for more officers. SPOG could also produce radio and TV spots to alert voters to those candidates who would rather spend money on self-cleaning toilets and global warming. We can have a much bigger impact in the politics of city government. It will take unity and participation. Starting in January, board members and shop stewards will be approaching each of you about voluntarily contributing to the PAC. All serious unions have one and it is time we get serious!

CONTRACT UPDATE: We had our first mediation session on November 13th. Our side was armed with our complete and full proposal, but the city was not so armed. Our side let it be known that we will not be engaging in the negotiations of old where things were discussed in a “piece-meal format.” We want to see the full package and then we will start negotiating specific sections of the contract. As a result, we used the session to explain our offer to the mediator. We have two sessions scheduled for December. We hope to see the city’s “complete offer” at that time. As always, please ignore the rumor mongers. I will keep you as informed as much as I possibly can.

It is never an easy time to lose a family member, but with the holiday season upon us, it can be an extremely difficult time. Chaplain John Oas offered some advice at the memorial that can hopefully be a reminder to all of us. Chaplain Oas said that we need to remember to “never take each other for granted.” That sounds so simple, but we all fall into the day to day routines and we fail to recognize that none of us are guaranteed another shift, another day or even another hour. Each of us will one day face the end of our journey. At that time it will not matter what rank we are, how many arrests we made, or how many toys we accumulated. What will matter is how we treated those around us. A hospital chaplain once remarked that as he spoke to people who were nearing death, he never once heard anyone say, “I wish I had spent more time at the office.” The message is clear. We should keep things in the proper perspective. During this Christmas season be grateful for those around us and the gift of time. We should vow to try and not take anyone for granted because there are no guarantees. Please keep the families of Joselito Barber and Elizabeth Nowak in your thoughts and prayers as they celebrate their first Christmas without their loved ones. Always be safe and have a Merry Christmas!

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Reflections of Officer Elizabeth “Beth” Nowak #6960



Elizabeth was an excellent lateral student officer and was adapting very quickly to the Seattle Police Departments way of doing police work. She was a good addition to the department and will be missed. She was a quiet professional with a very good work ethic.

-Officer Virgil McDonald #5159

I worked for the Quartermaster all summer and got to know Beth a little.

I used to call her the “Racine gal” and I teased her about her “accent”. I also thought she had the most beautiful blue eyes I had ever seen. (My grandmother is from Madison so I enjoyed listening to Beth). I really think SPD lost a shining star; when she spoke about Seattle and working for the Department she just glowed with excitement. She was so excited about moving here and having more opportunities to advance her career.

What a horrible shame to lose someone so precious. RIP Beth and God speed.

– ASI Lori Nelsen #5819

Beth came to my unit and sector right out of FTO. She was excited about coming to SPD. She really liked the idea of working in a large city. She had a good sense of humor and was really starting to show her personality at work. She was a good officer and I’m proud to have had her as a partner and squad mate, even if it was for such a brief time. God be with her.

– Officer Mike McDonald #6622

Beth could put on a hard exterior, but she had a kind heart. I know she was preparing to do some volunteer work with a local organization. She had plenty of encouraging words for friends. She loved her beautiful green BMW. She was very proud of her military service. She was an inspiring person. She will be remembered and missed.

– Officer Lorn Richey #6937

Beth was assigned to me as a student officer from September 8th to September 29th. When I first met Beth she was very reserved, almost to the point that most casual

observers might find her to be standoffish. I found quickly that her personality was more than that. Beth had made quite a transition in her life, leaving an environment that she was comfortable with and coming to a whole new place looking for something more. That transition did not come easy. She had to learn to get used to a new place, had to deal with the death of family and friends and had to navigate the ways of the Seattle Police Department and all along having to learn how to adapt to, “...the way things are done here.” All of this in a very short period of time, but Beth was on her way to establishing herself here.

Beth was a good officer. She possessed good basic patrol skills and was a good investigator. During her short time with me and the first watch Robert sector squad, we had the opportunity to do some good police work. We snatched up a bank robber, a felony assault suspect, kicked some doors and chased some bad guys. She got the opportunity to do police work “first watch style”, doing everything with nothing. She had the ability to relate to people and was good at dealing with everyone we came into contact with, even to the point where she diffused a situation that I, as her “training officer”, had to step out of after two citizens pushed my buttons. She was compassionate when she needed to be and a hard ass when she was supposed to be. She was always inquisitive, almost to a fault. More often than not, our conversations would always start out with an apology, from her, for asking another question about, “...the way things are done here.” Quite often my response to her, after a long explanation of how to do it, was, “When you figure out why it is done that way, you let me know.” Another example of, “...the way things are done here.”

I did not have an opportunity to know Beth in her personal life, for obvious reasons. I was apprehensive about attending her memorial service, also for obvious reasons. I am glad I did. Seeing the pictures of Beth, outside of the Seattle Police Department, and hearing her friend’s talk about her reinforced my opinions and observations about her. I called Beth about a week ago, after hearing that she had completed the field-training program and had been assigned to everyone’s dream, first watch. I congratulated her and told her that I would swing up and have “a cup” with her when she got settled at the East Precinct. Well, that “cup” will wait for another time and place. In closing, just another observation...if I may. Take the time to look out for one another, make the

new folks feel welcome and go out of your way to teach them the right way to do police work. In the spirit of being a “dysfunctional family”, you don’t always have to like each other, but we do need to look out for one another...because as we all know, no one else is going to.

– Officer Damon Deese #6274

As her field-training officer, I knew Beth to be professional, smart and hardworking. When Beth was assigned to me, it was immediately clear to me that she was going to be an asset to the Seattle Police Department. Beth wrote good reports, completed thorough investigations and had good officer safety skills. She was calm and polite, did not lose her cool easily and could deliver a good lecture when necessary. Beyond that she had an eagerness to learn and to challenge herself. Beth drove me crazy with her questions. Why does Seattle do this? What do you guys do for this? Is there something for that? I have never had a student challenge me so much. Completely respectful, but she wanted to be prepared to do policing the “Seattle” way. I constantly had to look up answers in response to her questions and report back to her. We often had lunch with another field training officer and I would say to him, “Your turn to answer questions. I need a break!” In all seriousness, this is a good attribute and made Beth a good student.

Beth was also completely unflappable. One day during her rotation with me, we got into a tussle with a suspect. Beth had already requested another unit, but decided to have them step it up. Beth got on the radio and was completely calm and you could barely tell that we had just finished wrestling around with the suspect and although in handcuffs, still fighting. Unflappable. I teased her about her mid-western stoicism.

Last month we were on our way to take a report of stolen vehicle. When we got to the address, Beth looked around and said, “I don’t see the vehicle. Do you?” I looked at her and thought she was joking and I said, “Well, I think that is why we are here... The vehicle is gone.” The look on her face was priceless and she said, “Whoops, Blonde Moment”. The squad and I had some fun with that, because of course, I couldn’t keep that to myself!

Our biggest conflict during the month though was her support of the Yankees and Derek Jeter. I tried to explain to Beth that Seattleites, and

me in particular, are Yankee Haters, but she would hear nothing about it. I did have fun, though, teasing Beth during the playoffs about the Yankees getting spanked as overpriced prima donnas.

I don’t know how many of you realized that Beth was very new to Seattle. Last year when Beth decided that she wanted to go to a bigger department, she looked at several large cities. Beth went to NYPD, tested with Chicago and Seattle and looked at Milwaukee and Detroit. She researched each of cities and I am sure made lists regarding the pros and cons of each. And she chose Seattle. I think the citizens and the officers of Seattle should be honored that Beth chose us. And be very angry that we lost one of the good ones. I have no doubt that Beth would have succeeded here in Seattle and served our community faithfully. Beth was very patriotic. She told me that some of her best memories are from when she was called up. Beth loved the fact that she was serving her country and the camaraderie she felt with her fellow airmen. Beth had told me that after she got settled here in Seattle, she wanted to re-enlist with the Air Force Reserves.

During the last week, I spent a lot of time with Beth’s family and friends. I looked at pictures of Beth dancing and goofing off with friends. I saw Beth’s collection of Madonna paraphernalia. I felt how much Beth loved and cared for her family. I am very angry that I will never get the opportunity to know this side of Beth. She was a private person and a little hard to get to know. While I am glad that I got to know Beth as a professional and got to see some of her dry wit and sarcasm, I am sad that I will never get to know the “rock star kicks” Beth, the dancing Beth, the music lover Beth, the “Cosmos and Wings” Beth. After meeting Beth, her friends and family, I think that the people hardest to get to know are the ones most worth knowing.

–Officer Dorothy Kim #6057

Can You Hear Us Now?

By Officer Steve Pomper, East Precinct

Communication is essential in fostering any good relationship. How well parties communicate often dictates success or failure of an undertaking. *Duh*—right? Well, you wouldn’t think it such a, *duh*, the way some people communicate around here.

For instance, how often does the brass visit roll calls? I can’t remember the last time. I know they’re busy people, but are the officers who serve the fundamental mission of the department not worth the occasional visit? (Just so we know, they know, we exist.) How can the administration get the pulse of patrol without meeting regularly with patrol officers in the field?

A little can go a long way. I remember Chief Pirak dropping by roll call, in uniform, on holidays like Thanksgiving. (Just so we knew, he knew, we were there.) A small gesture, maybe, but we appreciated the effort, because it was consistent and sincere.

As you all know from my last article, I got into a bit of a kerfuffle over an officer/public safety memo I’d written. I’m happy to report that I’m back in my original squad, although the ostensible reasons given for my return were as nebulous as the alleged, alternate reasons given for my departure. I wasn’t given the courtesy of an explanation for my summary transfer until 80 days had passed. I won’t go into detail, but the “explanation,” I finally received would have insulted the intelligence of a rock.

What was at the heart of what happened to me? A poor communication style where superiors dictate and subordinates placate. It wasn’t enough to follow an order; we had to like it too. What is the result of such a policy? Diminished confidence, trust and respect. Is it any wonder morale has fallen precipitously from an already low level? (However, a fresh wind has drifted East, and the clouds on the horizon appear to be clearing.)

Communication needs some basic elements if it’s going to contribute positively to any professional relationship. It needs to be clear, definitions need to be common, and parties need to feel free to respectfully offer their concerns. If an officer experiences retaliation for expressing a contrary opinion, how likely is he or she to bring up officer and public safety concerns in the future, especially if the opinion swerves wide of current policy? Well, okay, if it’s me, pretty damn likely. But I gotta tell ya, I am hesitant, because the simple truth is, I’m a bit gun-shy now. As much as I’ve written my opinion in these pages over the years, the memo I wrote that got me transferred was the first and only policy-questioning memo I’ve ever written.

The damage done by retaliation is insidious. An aggrieved party can be restored to his or her previous position, but the damage done to an officer’s reputation and to the freedom for officers in general to respectfully communicate concerns is a done deal.

We can’t un-ring that bell; we can only wait for its resonance to fade.

Another communications challenge, Geo-Policing, is rearing its ugly head again, but some aspects may actually be palatable to patrol. One of these is improved patrol shift schedules. I was happy to see that patrol officers; good street cops, have been tasked with a major facet of planning these shifts. These officers are working hard at this brain-scrambling work, and I chuckle that a consultant or two may bristle at their primary concern for patrol officers in formulating the shifts. To the consultants, we’re pinpoints on a graph; to the officers, we’re comrades in arms—and friends.

The ugly parts of Geo-Policing are still ugly. It seems all we hear are reports critical of patrol officers and the way we spend our time. In one roll call we hear about spending too much time on burglaries. In the next roll call we hear we’re not conducting thorough enough investigations and we need to collect more prints. This is obviously not a constructive mode of communication. Do we have officers who abuse the system? What organization doesn’t, but why does the focus have to be on the few when the vast majority of officers do their jobs competently? You can always find the anomaly—if that’s what you’re looking for.

One result of this assault is the return of the dreaded stat sheet, well at East anyway. We were told that stats would benefit us by showing how much work we do and how well we

manage our time; I’m wondering if it simply tracks how well we jump through hoops. Perhaps stat sheets would have more credibility if they hadn’t been so on and off over the years with no tangible results or benefits for officers.

In November, during a roll call Geo-Policing update, an officer asked if any other units were asking their people to account for their time, efficiency, and “productivity” by providing stats, or is it just patrol. The answer was, “Just patrol.”

Here’s a formula to improve patrol morale: Don’t merely acknowledge the severe staffing crisis, also recognize officers for our efforts despite these deficits. Appreciate our listening to citizen’s complaints when we respond hours after they’d dialed 911. Acknowledge that we often hit the streets with only one or two other officers in our squads. Treat officers like it matters that we’ve been doing a pretty damn good job for years with reduced staffing, while maintaining professional and ethical standards envied by police administrations across the country.

At the very least, please don’t acknowledge staffing deficiencies and then turn around and complain about a lack of pro-activity. It seems all parties have now, finally, acknowledged the staffing crisis; let’s not blame and punish those most affected by it, by pretending patrol officers are the problem.

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Happy Anniversary

The Guardian Staff is pleased to announce the milestones achieved by the following SPOG members during the month of December!



30 Years of Service

Detective Manny Washington, Fugitive
Officer Gene Erickson, West Precinct

20 Years of Service

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Officer of the Month

By Officer Christopher Hall, West Precinct

The SPOG Officers of the Month for December 2006 are Sergeant Robert Gilson, Sergeant Abram Barker, Officer Jonathan Kiehn, Officer Brian Rees, Officer Jeff Mitchell, Officer Oscar Gardea, Officer Brett Milstead, Officer Hope Bauer, Officer Jessica Morgan, Officer David Gordon, Officer Robin Seibert and Officer Scott Hatzenbuehler; all from the North Precinct. They were nominated by Lieutenant Carmen Best for their response, follow up and resolution of a threat to commit a mass murder at a rave.

On September 30th, Officer Kiehn responded to a 911 call placed by a juvenile. The juvenile claimed that an acquaintance of hers was suicidal and had posted threats on the internet that he was planning to go to a local rave and commit mass murder and then suicide. The postings indicated the rave was going to occur later that evening. Officers Kiehn and Mitchell reviewed the internet postings and were able to identify a suspect. A JEMS photo was distributed and the hunt was on. Officers Milstead and Rees located the suspect in the University District and arrested him for felony harassment. During the arrest the suspect violently resisted the initial arrest, threatened to kill the officers, attempted to kick out a patrol car window, attempted to slip out of his handcuffs and attempted to assault the officers a second time at the precinct. The suspect claimed to be a member of, and had items indicating membership in, the Insane Clown Posse.

Lieutenant Best commented in her nomination that, “The teamwork and commitment shown by the officers and their sergeants deserves the highest praise and recognition. Had it not been for the extra attention, quick planning and coordination of the personnel involved, the suspect would

have been free to carry out his threats.”

Also nominated this month

- Sergeant Vela nominated Officers Richard Sprecher, James Vandebogart and Wes Ferris for their response to a male who had shot himself, and their actions that saved his life.
- Officer Bill Collins nominated Officer Andrew West of the West Precinct for his actions during a contact with a suspect who tried to slash him with a 8” butcher knife during a stop for Public Drinking.
- Officer David Gordon nominated Officers Oscar Gardea, Shawn Martinelli, Amber Anderson, Pete Lazarou and Detective James Freese for their arrest on a bomb threat call at Marshall High School.
- Detective Karen Belshay nominated Detective Brandon James for actions after observing a hit & run accident.
- Officer Scott McGlashan nominated Officers Gary McNulty, Ian Wallace (DOC), Troy Swanson, Ted Cablayan and Detectives Dag Aakervick and Jim Rodgers for their work leading to the arrest of a bank robber. .
- Sergeant Randy Woolery nominated Officer Tammy Burton and Chris Snyder for their actions during an apartment fire.
- Sergeant Randy Woolery also nominated Officers Michael Tietjen, Gregory Neubert and Francis Estrada for their work on a nightclub disturbance with weapons.

2006 Ronald McDonald Christmas Cruise

Continued from page 1

There will be families that remain at the Ronald McDonald House during the cruise for a variety of reasons. We will provide a special dinner for them while the cruise is underway. We do not want anyone to be left out on this special holiday.

In order to put this event together, we are looking for four or five SPOG members to join us, in uniform, on board the Christmas Eve Cruise and a few more at the Ronald McDonald House during the cruise. You will be working alongside Kirkland and Medina Police Officers and other RMH Holiday Cruise Committee volunteers. Dinner will be provided for the volunteers. Volunteers may bring one guest with them, although there will be a modest charge for the guest’s meal. As a reminder for those who work off-duty jobs, there is a Seattle Seahawks game in town Christmas Eve afternoon.

While we seek uniformed officers for the cruise and at the House on Christmas Eve, we welcome sworn, civilian and retired employees to shop for the families [we’re paying for the gifts, we just need people to shop], to participate in wrapping parties, and to move wrapped gifts from SPOG to the Ronald McDonald House.

If you would like to volunteer to be on the cruise, to be at the Ronald McDonald House, or to shop for or wrap gifts, give me a call at 206-684-8559 or e-mail monty.moss@seattle.gov. We are getting more volunteers each year, so I encourage you to contact me soon. Many of you have been on past cruises with us, or have helped purchase or deliver gifts. If you have not been a part of the RMH Holiday Cruise, I would encourage you to give it a try. We can use your help. You can use a special memory.

The Call Box

By Clark Elster, SPD Retired
Submitted by Sergeant Ty Elster, Board Position #8

This cartoon first appeared in the interdepartmental publication “The Call Box” in 1964 (note the old style shoulder patch on the officer’s uniform). For a number of years after it’s appearance, the Media Relations Unit, known as the Public Information Unit back then, used this cartoon as their official Christmas card. The card would then be sent to various community members, including all of the local news media outlets. Political correctness put an end to the practice of any departmentally authorized “holiday” cards, as I’m sure a harmless cartoon such as this would generate protests and lawsuits from many groups.



SYNAPSE

“We proudly back and support the men & women of the Seattle Police Department”



Tina Bueche
SPD Proprietor
& Friend

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Seattle Security

By Officer Walt Hayden, SSI President

My name is Walt Hayden. I currently work in the Traffic Section as a Motorcycle Officer. I was asked to step into the position of Seattle Security President by our Guild leadership. The past President, Joe Osborne, resigned his position after years of hard work and dedicated leadership. If you run into Joe, be sure to thank him for all his hard work. The following is a brief background for those of you unfamiliar with Seattle Security, Inc.

The Seattle Police Officer’s Guild, prior to 1997, was responsible for trying to fill off-duty needs of Seattle. The volume of the business became too great for the Guild to handle. Seattle Security was established to take over this need as a private business. Seattle Security has been filling many of Seattle’s off-duty needs ever since. Our goal is fairly simple: provide off-duty Seattle Police Officers for security and traffic control needs in the Greater Seattle area. The services we provide include: executive protection; workplace violence; school functions; places of worship; terminations/ downsizing; personal security; music/ sporting events; movie locations; private/special events; and traffic control. We do not provide security for events or customers whose main source of income stem from the sale of liquor or alcoholic beverages.

Seattle Security is administered by a Board of Directors. Our board members are all active duty police officers or detectives. Each board member is paid the equivalent of four (4) hours of off-duty per month. We also have two part-time employees, who assist the board with managing the office. The current board is: Walt Hayden, President; Tom McLaughlin, Vice-President; Officer Randy Robinson, Secretary/Treasurer; Officer Charlie Villagrancia, Position #4; and Detective Chris Gough, Position #5.

Seattle Security has gone through some turbulent times in the last few years. The previous board (Joe Osborne, Kevin Stuckey, Jonard Legaspi, and Mike Meder) managed SSI and kept it in business. If you happen to run into one of these officers, be sure to thank them. Without their hard work and dedication, SSI would not have survived.

Seattle Security is administered almost entirely online. Our office staff works with our clients by signing them up with a contract (which they can download from our website at www.seattlesecurity.com). Once our office has a signed contract, the job is posted on the website in the officers’ only section. Officers who have signed up with SSI can peruse the monthly schedule. The jobs are listed by flagging or security. All the pertinent details of the job are listed. If an officer elects to work one of the jobs, he simply selects it. Once selected, the software notes that officer is working that job. The software also has a “My Schedule” section, which will list all the jobs that particular officer, is working. It is a quick way to see what you have signed up for in any given month. When an officer is done working the selected job he must fill out a time sheet, which is also completed online. It is that simple. The officer will be paid on the next pay cycle (the 5th or the 20th of the month). SSI pays its officers via a W2, meaning we pay the usual employee items (federal taxes, L&I, Social Security). If you have worked jobs and been paid via a 1099, you know what a tax headache that can be. SSI has eliminated that for its employees. Additionally, we carry a million dollar insurance policy for officer liability issues (many employers will not hire off-duty officers without this type of insurance). Our rates of pay are based on the current Guild off-duty pay scale. Our pay is also competitive with other organizations that hire off-duty officers (i.e. Akela Security). Seattle Security is currently reviewing its business practices, in an attempt to provide a better service to our employees (YOU, the officer). Some of our short term goals are to 1) Build a loyal client base; 2) Sign up more SPD officers; 3) Contract more long term jobs; 4) Ensure fair, equitable job postings; 5) Create a stable business base, allowing off-duty employment for years to come.

I will be writing more articles for *The Guardian* about Seattle Security, Inc. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 206-763-8740. If you are interested in working off-duty for SSI, but are not currently signed up, contact Kim Legaspi, at kim@seattlesecurity.com.

History Corner

By The Guardian Staff



From left to right: Ed Striedinger, Bob Shilling, Mike Edwards, Ken Jakobsen, Dick Rovig, Wayne Larkin, Pat Murphy, John Sullivan

Past Guild Presidents were honored at the October General Membership Meeting. A plaque was unveiled to honor their dedicated service.

Past Guild Presidents

Fred Keenan	1952-1966	Dick Rovig	1982-1984
Wayne Larkin	1966-1968	Bill Conn	1984-1986
Patrick Murphy	1968-1970	John P. Sullivan	1986-1987
George Berger	1970-1972	Bob Shilling	1987-1990
Lenny O’Neil	1972-1973	Ed Striedinger	1990-1994
John P. Sullivan	1973-1978	Ken Jakobsen	1994-1996
Bob Moffet	1978-1979	Mike Edwards	1996-2002
Mike Patrick	1979-1980	Ken Saucier	2002-2004
Doug Dills	1980-1982	Kevin Haistings	2004-2006

Chaplain’s Corner

By Chaplain John Oas

Please know how very important you all are as a department. We have been through some tough times this year, yet I have seen you rally. You have risen to the occasion when it meant that we put others first. As a department, we are one of a kind. The Seattle area is famous for lots of “stuff”. But, most famous, is a department that is tough on crime and compassionate to the truly needy.

There was a time in Israel’s history, when she had left the devotion of her heart. As a nation, she went through the rituals and sacred rites. But, God said, “Your heart is not in it! I don’t want just you actions, but I want your attitude to be genuine and sincere. I want you to do the right thing because - you want to!”

With this brings a lot of memories, stress, dreams, and regrets. Decide to be your best at every call, around every disadvantaged person and around every needy child. Your City, department, and family look forward to you being your best, because you “want” to.

Thank you for your kindness to me this year as well!

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SPOG Welcomes New Fire Union President



The Seattle Firefighter's Union Local 27 recently announced the resignation of President Paul Atwater. Second VP Ryan Ellis assumed command of the union and will fulfill the two years remaining for the president's term of office. The Seattle Police Officer's Guild welcomes Firefighter Ellis to his new post and we look forward to building a strong and friendly relationship between our labor organizations. SPOG congratulates outgoing President Atwater for his dedication and service to the Fire Union.

I see

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dealing with:

- Post-trauma reactions
- Stress management
- Life and Career choice points
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Anger management

Norman J. Mar, Ph.D.
(206) 340-8009 voice
njmar@earthlink.net

I am a licensed clinical psychologist (state license #2433). I have been working with public safety employees since 1975. I was the in-house Seattle Police Clinical Psychologist from 1982--2000. I am now in private practice in the Minor&James Medical Building and still consult with SPD on a variety of issues. I also consult with a number of public safety agencies on local, state, regional, and natgional issues.

SPOG Endorses Congressman Reichert at Public Safety Rally



SPOG President Rich O'Neill and Vice President Roger Dixon congratulate Congressman Dave Reichert on his victory

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SPOG Elections are Here

Positions open are: Vice President, Sergeant at Arms, Position 1, Position 3, Position 5, Position 7, and Position 9.

Nominations open on **November 22nd at 0800** and end on **December 27th at 1600**. Call the Guild Office for more information 206-767-1150

NOMINATIONS OPEN

Vice President, Sergeant-at-Arms and Odd Board Positions
Nominations Open November 22nd at 0800 Hours
Nominations Close December 27th at 1600 Hours

Photo and 250 word message must be submitted by close of nominations
Contact the Guild at 767-1150 for more information

SEATTLE POLICE OFFICERS' GUILD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NOMINATION FORM

Date

We, the undersigned, nominate _____ for the position of _____ (Vice President, Position #1, etc.) of the Seattle Police Officers' Guild.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

Nominee Signature _____

An Officer and a Gentleman

By Sergeant Roger Dixon, Vice President

He is a quiet, self-effacing individual, a man who thinks first of people, of the men and women who work for him, and a man who fosters and encourages workplace satisfaction. Lieutenant Simeon “Sim” Tamayo was recently transferred from his 6-year assignment as the North Precinct Third Watch Commander.

Rare is a time that a lieutenant serves so long in a single assignment. This fact alone shows certain resilience to ever changing conditions within law enforcement. Sim prided himself on straightforward and honest approach in working with and connecting with the people he commanded. He took time and effort to know every officer, their strengths and weaknesses, their goals and ambitions. When an officer passed by, Sim stopped to greet them, soliciting input on an issue, or simply asking about family.

Whether he was mentoring an officer, calmly soothing a grumpy sergeant, or cooking ribs for a Watch BBQ, Lieutenant Tamayo constantly and

consistently remained a recruiting poster dream of a Watch Commander.

He embraced friendship and loyalty as a core value, placing people above all else. More than once officers were heard to comment that decisions they made were predicated on what Lieutenant Tamayo would consider proper. So strong was his quiet influence that rank and file officers considered his opinion sacrosanct.

Lieutenant Tamayo’s final night on the Watch was bittersweet. In true character he tried to quietly exit without notice. The by-product of building loyalty and friendships is recognition of the very values he established. He reluctantly entered roll call and was greeted with an ovation of applause. Loyalty and friendship work both ways, Sim. The officers and sergeants you influenced and cared about are proud to have served with you. You are an officer and a gentleman.

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We Are Running Out of Time

By Officer Mike Severance, Board Position #5

In 1979 the SPOG Vice President wrote a letter to the citizens of Seattle and the city’s elected officials. That letter was re-printed recently in *The Guardian*. Two sentences in that letter are so much more meaningful today than they were then. We can no longer protect you. We can barely protect ourselves.

I once heard a definition that a politician is a person who can keep a straight face and tell the people what they want to hear even when they know they are not telling the people the truth. The politicians have told the people that Seattle is one of the safest cities in the United States. In his latest message to us in the “Blue Review”, the Chief refers to Seattle as the safest city in the nation. That is what the people want to hear. Unfortunately, that is not the truth. Seattle was recently ranked as the 262nd safest city in the country. Last year, the same study ranked Seattle as the 160th safest in the country. Interestingly, New York and Los Angeles are ranked as being much safer than Seattle. I find it hard to believe that this city’s elected officials are actually blind to SPD’s staffing crisis. In 1971, real patrol strength was one half of department sworn personnel. We have the same total number of bodies on the department today that we had then, but real patrol strength is much less than one half of department sworn personnel. For those who were not here in 1971, let me give you an example so that you might visualize this difference. For six months of 1971, I was a police officer dispatcher in Communications. What is now the West and East Precincts was just the West Precinct. I remember working West Radio and handling 30+ uniformed patrol units. Only one or two of those units were one-officer cars. There were no multi-hour response times to calls. If this city’s elected officials are actually blind to this staffing catastrophe, then maybe Seattle could be better served by new people with better eyesight.

If public safety has been such a low priority over the years, what have our past and current elected officials considered to be more important? Let’s see. The circus, a Seattle tradition for decades, entertained hundreds of thousands, maybe millions, of children and adults. The circus can no longer come to town thanks to Seattle’s elected officials. Some elected officials had a sissy fit over members of our armed forces marching in our parades because they carry rifles. Those same patriots questioned whether the traditional Seafair fleet from the U.S. Navy should be allowed to dock in Seattle. Elected officials spent ten million dollars of the taxpayers’ money on six portable toilets. Elected officials used taxpayer money to buy the Key Tower. How many new cops could have been hired for the price of that piece of real estate? There was Strippergate where large sums of money were donated to certain elected officials by

one strip club which wanted a bigger parking lot. The strip club got its bigger parking lot. Today, some of our elected officials are more concerned with how close a stripper can dance to a customer than they are with hiring enough police officers to adequately protect Seattle, let alone enforce a stripper distance rule. Our elected officials are more concerned with installing video cameras in our police cars than they are with putting cops in those cars. When will they start to serve the interest of the people who pay their salaries? When will they realize that public safety, not strippers or strip club parking lots, must be the #1 priority today because of the world in which we live?

My hat is off to Peter Steinbrueck. Maybe he saw the handwriting on the wall. He proposed increasing the authorized strength of SPD by 250 officers and hiring 50 new officers a year for the next five years, plus replacing all the officers who leave the department during those five years. That was a gutsy move even if he knew the whole Council would never approve it, and he has garnered some political capital to use in the future. After the rest of the City Council recovered from the shock of such a gutsy suggestion, they took Peter’s plan under advisement and made some slight modifications. They voted to hire 10 additional new uniformed officers in 2007 and another 20 in 2008. Let’s see. We have five precincts with three shifts each. That makes 15 patrol shifts. If this huge infusion of new bodies were to be evenly distributed in Patrol, each patrol shift would get two extra bodies. But I forgot to tell you that somebody has suddenly realized that Seattle has a gang problem. The Gang Unit is going to get more bodies. God knows they need them, but some of those bodies will come from Patrol. After voting for this pittance of an increase, the City Council sent out a press release. They patted themselves on the back and told the people what a great thing they had done to make Seattle safer. I would liken their staffing increase to trying to extinguish a forest fire by spitting on it. This is not how you make a city safer.

Why didn’t the rest of the City Council, the Mayor and our own Chief of Police endorse Peter’s plan immediately and enthusiastically? They come up with excuses for why it can’t be done. Why don’t they just do their job and accomplish it? Why don’t they want adequate protection for our citizens including those who are paying millions for downtown condos? I hope those taxpayers really like their new condos because, unless we get a lot more bodies, I predict they will be spending a lot of time indoors because they will be afraid to go outdoors.

A member of the Seattle City Council central staff recently slammed every uniformed Seattle patrol officer when

he told the City Council that we are inefficient. That same person did a study of SPD staffing last year and determined that the average number of uniformed Seattle police officers on duty on any shift is 88 officers spread over 5 precincts (17+ per precinct). That equates to an average of .00015 uniformed police officers on duty at any given time to protect each citizen living in Seattle, or one whole officer for every 6,543 citizens. That does not take into account the workday population of this city, and I could not even begin to estimate that number. If you attend a Seahawks or Mariners game, you actually have a higher ratio of cops protecting you there than when you are in your own home. I would like to know how those 88 officers per shift can be more efficient. In 2005, those inefficient officers managed to handle 462,950 events (an 80% increase from 1971), and made 23,293 arrests (a 26% decrease from 1971). There were 9556 auto thefts in 2005 (a 173% increase from 1971). Inefficient...I don’t think so. Spread way too thin, dangerously thin, tragically thin...you bet.

I have been working the streets of this city for a long, long time. There was a 32% increase in crime in Seattle from 1968-1969. From 1969-1971 there was a 15.7% decrease. SPD’s adequately staffed, dedicated and **motivated** Patrol Division was credited for that decrease. I was here then when SPD was recognized across the country as the best police department west of the Rockies and one of the best in the nation. But that was when public safety was #1 with our elected officials and SPD management. That was when Seattle’s patrol officers did not have to swim upstream against the current of elected officials, ineffective management, a leadership void, and inadequate staffing. That was when public safety was more important than generating OPA stats. Our elected officials have failed to maintain, let alone strengthen, this city’s safety net. That net is full of holes and could collapse under the right circumstances.

And what if the City Council immediately approved Councilman Steinbrueck’s plan? Where will the bodies come from? How will we get people to want to join SPD, referred to

by some other departments in the U.S. as “The Love Police”? Can we lure them here because of our elected officials’ zeal for public safety? Can we lure them here with a starting salary of 47K, or might they want to go to California and start at 70K. Can we offer them leadership? I think we have little to offer potential candidates compared to what other departments and cities are offering. Maybe that is why we get so few and don’t keep all the ones we do get. As Council member Drago stated after the City Council got a great big raise, “You get what you pay for”. For far too long, our elected officials have not been paying for an adequate number of police officers, and the crack in the dam just keeps getting bigger.

The hiring of 70 officers to replace departing ones is already budgeted for 2007-2008. I don’t know where they came up with the number 70 because 97 officers have left the department during the current biennium, and it isn’t even over yet. If the same thing happens in the next biennium, the net change in staffing for the next two years would be a great big +3. The Chief has told the Council that he is opposed to hiring more than the 70 replacement officers because he does not believe the department can **find** and hire more than 70 qualified candidates. Now I’m confused because, in the “Blue Review”, the Chief says he is continuing to make this a stronger agency, and we need more officers to make this a safer city. Do you think he might just be telling us what we want to hear? If the police department in the biggest city in the state cannot find more than 70 qualified candidates, then maybe something needs to be done to make us more attractive and more competitive in recruiting.

When it comes to public safety, the politicians of this city have failed the people of Seattle and Seattle’s police officers. Crunch time is here, and if unprecedented action is not taken, I do not think this city will ever recover. We are running out of time.

The net staffing change over the last 23 months is +26.

Be safe out there.

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Retired News

By Mike Germann

This month’s article will be necessarily short. The Seattle Police Department has suffered yet another tragic death of a current officer and that takes precedence. Your Police Pension Office does want to note the following:

Medicare and Miscellaneous Reimbursement Requests

“THANK YOU” TO ALL THOSE RETIRED MEMBERS WHO HAVE ALREADY FILED their Medicare reimbursement request and other claims. IF YOU’RE ONE OF THOSE ELIGIBLE AND YOU HAVEN’T SENT IN YOUR REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST, YOU NEED TO DO SO NOW. This also applies to other reimbursement requests such as dental care, flu shots and any other out-of-pocket expenses for which the Police Pension Fund is ultimately responsible. Everything that’s going to be processed in the 2006 fiscal year needs to reach the Police Pension Office not later than the middle of December 2006.

Again, this is mandated by a change in accounting cycles. Any questions, call your Police Pension Office at (206) 386-1286.

Mike Crist led the pledge of allegiance. The roll call of officers indicated all present except Dave Grayson and LaVelle Thresher who were excused.

President Caalim directed everyone to the minutes of the October meeting that had been distributed. Mike Crist made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Ted Fonis and passed unanimously.

Nick Bulpin gave the financial report and T.C. Miller made a motion to accept the report and to pay the current bills. The motion was seconded by Pat Munter and passed unanimously. Ted Fonis then acknowledged the outstanding work done by Secretary/Treasurers Mike Slessman and Nick Bulpin since he (Fonis) came on board, following Sammy McGlothlin’s passing several years ago, remarking about the health of the RSPOA financial status.

President Caalim stated there will be a letter from the LEOFF 1 Coalition sent to the membership regarding the up-coming bills in Olympia.

John Sullivan asked everyone to pay attention to the Medicare refund form that will appear in the Guardian November and December editions and to respond to the Pension office.

December 2006 Retirees’ Birthdays

Note: In earlier Guardian publications, only the names of persons celebrating their birthdays in a particular month were printed. As space for Retired News is limited, we are returning to that policy. If you need to know the exact birth date of a retired member, please contact the Pension Office, 206-3861286.

Michael W. “Mike” Allen, Roger H. Amundson, Stephen E. “Sluggo” Anderson, Ronald L. “Ron” Aslett, Barrie L. Bailey (Mark M.), Randall W. “Randy” Benson, Dorothy Birkinshaw (Howard), John D. Boatman, Michael D. “Mike” Brasfield, Ivory Brooks, Jr., John W. Brummett, Richard C. “Rick” Buckland, Jr, Nicholas J. “Nick” Bulpin, Adeline L. “Addy” Campbell (Kenneth E.), Joyce A. Chase (Vernon R.), Charles R. “Ray” Connery, Ronald D. “R.D.” Copeland, Merlyn R. “Merle” Dickhaut, Harriet D. Dionne (Emil), Michael S. “Mike” Donnelly, N. Jewell Dunston (Virgil M.), James P. “Jim” Dyment, Allen J. “Al” Earlywine, Barbara Fletcher (James R.), Marie Franzen (Robert M.), Mark L. Gilbert, Evelyn Golder (Edwin), Raymond A. “Ray” Gonstead, Charles M. “Chuck” Gorham, Allan R. “Al” Gustin, Harold H. Haley, Charles S. “Charlie” Harris, Lloyd J. Hart, Sally S. Hofstee (Jerry), Michael “Mike” Hori, Timothy A. “Tim” Hubbard, Philip B. “Phil” Hurd, James M. “Mike” Jacobson, David W. “Dave” Jessup, George Patrick Johnson, Richard L. “Dick” Johnson, Arne D. Jorgensen, Dennis P. “Pat” Kelly, Donald J. “Don” Kelsey, William L. “Bill” Kirk, Tommy B. Knight, Mary J. Kulgren, Theodore C. “Teddy” Lappier, Charles E. “Chuck” Layman, Skip Lindsey, Fred E. Lipke, Howard F. “The Fox” Lischke, Judith A. “Judy” Lorance (Richard L.), Allan R. “Cubby” Lorette, Gerard P. “Pat” Lui, William J. “Bill” Magrilio, David B. “Dave” Malinowski, Virginia Manus (Eugene E.), Edwin C. “Ed” Marion, Robin R. “Rob” McCurley, Ronald C. “Ron” McNaught, Bernie L. Miller, Virginia J. Mills (Walter), Dorothy E. Moyle (Norman), James D. “J.D.” Nicholson, Allister H. “Al” O’Brien, Shaun M. O’Kinsella, Frank W. Ottersbach, Cary G. Parkes, Joanne B. Pavlovich-Stanton (George), David A. “Dave” Peppard, Glayd S. “Steve” Perkins, Janet A. Plumb (Wayne C.), Donald L. “Don” Poindexter, Russell F. “Russ” Proctor, John L. “Johnny” Quaale, Steven B. “Steve” Quint, Victoria A. Roller (Reyner P.), Donald C. “Don” Rothaus, Richard W. “Dick” Rovig, Albert L. “Al” Schrader, Charles B. “Chuck” Seely, Lawrence G. “Larry” Shaffer, Tyrone P. “Ty” Sheffey, Richard S. “Dick” Somonski, Shirley E. Strunk (Donald J.), Steven M. “Steve” Thomas, Peggy A. Timm, Robert W. “Bob” Trebon, Shirley Vance (William H.), Kathleen Watson (Donald), Julius L. “Jules” Werner, Elmer H. Wittman, Ralph W. Zottman

A moment of silence was held for the passing of Helen Karas and William Smith as well as the grave condition of Jan Hart, wife of Davis Hart. Ted Fonis will arrange for the Karas memorial seat at the front table for the next meeting.

Dick Rovig reported there is an off-duty work opportunity within the Edmonds School District teaching driving skills to students. No uniform needed and work at your own pace with a generous pay rate. Rovig once again reminded everyone to keep their e-mail addresses current.

President Caalim read a response from Nancy Kretchmar who indicated she was very pleased with the establishment of the perpetual remembrance fund in the Kretchmar name. The RSPOA letter and the Kretchmar card were then passed around.

****NOTICE****

LEOFF I AND ESCALATOR RETIRED SEATTLE POLICE PENSION FUND MEMBERS ONLY

2006 MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST

This form is only for LEOFF I or ESCALATOR retired Seattle Police Pension Fund members (not beneficiaries) on MEDICARE, and is a reimbursement request for premiums you paid in conjunction with Medicare and, in some cases, for Medicare Supplement (Regence). Reimbursement will only be considered in response to your submitting a claim for your cost in 2006. Those who are covered by a Medicare supplement through Premera Blue Cross, your premiums are paid directly by the Police Pension Office and are not reimbursable.

The \$124 annual Medicare deductible is also reimbursable if you paid the deductible yourself. In that case, send a copy of the Medicare report showing the amount of deductible you met for 2006. In most cases the Police Pension Office has already paid the \$124 deductible during the course of the year.
(If you are uncertain about your coverage, please contact John Sullivan at 206-386-1287.)

Medicare Premium, Part B (Deducted from your Social Security check or paid quarterly by you.)	\$88.50 x _____ # of months	=	\$ _____
Premium for Regence Blue Shield (Supplement to Medicare or equivalent)	\$ _____ x _____ # of months	=	\$ _____
Medicare deductible Maximum of \$124, if applicable (See paragraph 2 above)			\$ _____
TOTAL			\$ _____

Name (Please Print) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

SIGNATURE _____

Please return this reimbursement form to:
Seattle Police Pension Office
PO Box 94729
Seattle, WA 98124-4729

MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT

Retired Seattle Police Officers’ Association Meeting News

SEATTLE POLICE RETIRED OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting
November 8th 2006

President Caalim called the meeting to order at noon in the dining room of the Four Seasons restaurant located at 8th South and King Street.

Pat Munter reminded everyone of the Blue Clan reunion in Phoenix scheduled for March 17, 2007.

There being no further business Rovig made a motion to adjourn at 12:25 pm and then the 32 people in attendance enjoyed a wonderful lunch.

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Lawrence D. Grout, #2167, retired Seattle Police Sergeant, passed away peacefully on October 20, 2006, while hospitalized in Seattle, Washington. He was 71 years of age upon his death.

Larry Grout was born on June 28, 1935. He was appointed a “Patrolman” of the Seattle Police Department on October 2, 1961. He retired with 25 years of service, which included prior time with Seattle Transit, on December 31, 1984.

Larry also had a second career in the military. He retired as a Chief Warrant Officer 5 (which are few and far between) with over 20 years service in the U.S. Army Reserve, specializing in criminal investigations.

A graveside service was held on October 26, 2006 at Mount Tahoma National Cemetery.

Larry is survived by his wife of 33 years, “Barb” (Barbara), son Kevin (a King County Sheriff’s Deputy), daughters Karen, Kathi, Tracy and their respective families to include four grandchildren and his two brothers

William D. Smith, #1378, retired Seattle Police “Patrolman” passed away on October 26, 2006 in Palm

Desert, California. He was 81 years of age upon his death.

Bill Smith was born on January 7, 1925. He was appointed a “Patrolman” of the Seattle Police Department on August 18, 1952. Bill Smith retired for disability on October 12, 1965.

Bill Smith is survived by his wife of 26 years, Patricia (“Pat”).

Private services will be held in Palm Desert, California to commemorate William D. Smith’s passing.

Helen Dimitra Karas, #1235, retired Seattle Police Detective passed away peacefully while in hospice care in Poulsbo, Washington during the early morning hours of October 30, 2006. She was 86 years of age upon her death.

Helen Karas was born on January 8, 1920. She was appointed a “Police Woman” of the Seattle Police Department on May 15, 1951. She retired on October 7, 1976, following 25 years of sworn service.

A funeral service was held on November 3, 2006 at the Vineland Lutheran Church in Poulsbo, Washington.

Helen Karas is survived by her long-time companion and life partner, retired Seattle Police Lieutenant Karen Ejde.

A Tragic Death of Another Seattle Police Officer

Seattle Police Patrol Officer **Elizabeth “Beth” Nowak**, #6960, was tragically killed while on her way to work at the East Precinct during the pre-dawn hours of Monday, November 13, 2006.

Beth Nowak was 30 years old at the time of her death. She was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and the Racine, Wisconsin Police Department. Beth transferred laterally to the Seattle Police Department on May 26, 2006. She had just completed local training and was assigned to regular uniformed patrol duties a little more than a week before her death. It was reported that she wanted to do police work in a large metropolitan police

department, which brought her to Seattle.

Condolences to:

Chuck Seely, retired Seattle Police Patrolman and family, on the death of his wife, **Joan E. Wilken-Seely** on October 18, 2006 at 76 years of age. She and Chuck had been married for 54 years. Also surviving are a daughter and a son. Graveside services were held on October 24, 2006.

Dave Hart, retired Seattle Police Lieutenant and family, on the death of his wife, **Janice “Jan” Kathleen Hart**, on November 11, 2006 in Palm Desert, California at 74 years of age. She and Dave had been married for 54 years. Also surviving are two sons and five grandchildren.

May they all rest in peace.

Important Date!!!!

SPOG Membership Meeting

Wednesday, December 20th

at 2000 hours

Complimentary Dinner

All Members Welcome

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Editor's Notes

By Detective Ron Smith, B/T West



She traveled 2,000 miles to attain a dream. She found herself in a major west coast city, awash with a summer full of sun, which gave way to a brief fall washed out by early winter rain. She arrived here with a glowing reputation from her previous department. She arrived not only as a police veteran, but also as a heroic U.S. Air Force veteran with service in the Middle East in the war

on terror. Beth Nowak was one of us, a piece of the Seattle's thin blue line. Despite only a few months with a Seattle Police badge, Beth will always be known as a hero because she earned one; she will be missed.

Beth's tragic death on November 13th touched many people, not only those of us inside the Seattle PD. The public is outraged that anyone could still be free after racking up 20 felony convictions, only to drive lights out in the early morning hours in a stolen car, smashing into an innocent person. I read a statement written by one of our own about an outright fight for his life with the same suspect who killed Beth. Reading the account of this detective's encounter with Neal Kelly in 2002 made the stubbly hair on the back of my neck stand up. As you have all read, in 2003 Kelly was up to his lifelong tricks, boosting a ride, running from the fuzz, and when he got cornered, he rammed a police car. After all of this, his sentence was a mere 55-months in the pokey. Our famous bleeding heart courts gave him a kiss and a hug; I mean a Drug Offender Sentencing Alternative (DOSA). Poor Mr. Kelly got out early to go to treatment, but obviously, like most of lifelong criminals, he wasn't serious and continued his habitual life of crime. In July 2006 he got caught prowling cars near Safeco Field, and you guessed it; he fled and fought with the cops again before once again landing back in his second home at the King County Jail. Despite all of his outrageous criminal history, Mr. Kelly managed to be out and about on that fateful morning on November 13th, most likely whacked out on dope, ultimately snuffing out a bright light, denying so many the company of a young lady whose life ran 180-degrees contrary to him. His death during the horrific crash only means that there is another boil off the ass of society, yet there are many more out there festering.

If it were not for Beth being a police officer, her tragic death would have been relegated to page 2 and a brief blurb on the evening news. Because she was a police officer, her tragic death was catapulted to the forefront, where it should remain. Hopefully outraged people will step up and call on their elected leaders to put some teeth in our laws. Sure Mr. Kelly was not a three-striker, or for that matter never earned a strike, however he was a career criminal. There ought to be some consequences for being a career criminal. There ought to be some consequences for stealing cars, and no it is not an insurance problem! It is long past due that the lawmakers in this state, county prosecutors and elected judges consider career criminals a threat to society!

We as Seattle Police officers should have the option to pursue stolen cars to capture the drivers and put them a jail cell where they belong. Seattle Police officers who work patrol should be training in the PIT maneuver and use it to end those pursuits, which have all been banned because they are supposedly too dangerous. The King County Prosecutor's Office should pursue exceptional sentences for career criminals and quit handing out DOSA's to those who claim that they are the victim of drug addiction. One DOSA per person per lifetime! Succeed and we most likely won't see them again; fail and they serve the full meal deal. The judges who let these criminals off light should be held accountable at reelection time and not enjoy the rubber stamp of incumbency.

Two Seattle cops killed in three months by career criminals is an outrage. Joselito and Beth's deaths need to be avenged by tougher sentences handed down from the bench to career criminals in King County. I highly doubt that the elected officials in this county have the intestinal fortitude to make this happen, so maybe another citizen's initiative such as Three Strikes and You're Out to finally put some teeth into our sentencing guidelines. Something needs to be done, and it needs to be done now!

Until next year, be safe out there! I hope you all get time to enjoy your families and loved ones during the Christmas season. "This country has nothing to fear from the crooked man who fails. We put him in jail. It is the crooked man who succeeds who is a threat to this country."- President Theodore Roosevelt.



The SPOG Board and Staff wish you and your family a

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Calendar of Events

Seattle Police Relief Association board meeting at the SPRAG Office
Wednesday, December 6th at 1300 hours

G.R.A.M. Christmas Party at the SPD Pavillion
Saturday, December 16th from 1200-1600 hours

Seattle Police Officers' Guild general membership meeting at the SPOG Office
Wednesday, December 20th at 2000 hours

Ronald McDonald House Christmas Cruise @ Pier 56
Sunday, December 24th at 1500 hours

Christmas (SPOG Office closed)
Monday, December 25th

SPOG Elections Close
Wednesday, December 27th at 1600 hours

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Congratulations to Dain and Kimberly Jones
on the birth of their son Grayson Arctander Jones
born on October 10, 2006.

He weighed in at 9lbs 15.2oz and was 21 1/2 inches long

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